

MONTGOMERY COUNTY REDISTRICTING COMMISSION HEARING 9/1/11

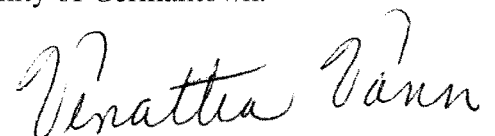
I am Venattia Vann. I have been a resident of Germantown for over 20 years. I raised my son in Germantown and educated him in the public schools of Montgomery County.

I have served and participated on several community boards and committees. This is to say, I have a vested interest in the health and progress of Montgomery County.

Now, let me focus on the mission of the Redistricting Commission. You have produced two maps, the Spence map and the Kahwaty map, to display the boundaries for the five (5) Council districts. It appears both maps meet the Commission's operating requirements. Both maps create districts that are compact, continuous and substantially equal in population. Neither map is likely to disenfranchise minority voters.

However, THE SPENCE MAP IS PREFERABLE FOR SEVERAL REASONS

- 1, Kahwaty creates a district 2 that is too spread out geographically –making it difficult for the residents of district 2 to interact with their representatives in their own communities.
2. While both maps under populate district 2, the Spence map comes ~~the~~ closes to Bringing the population in district 2 near the target.
3. Kahwaty creates districts that already exceed target population numbers. Under his map districts 4 and 5 start out with population numbers that are too high. District 4 has 3800 people over the county's target per district population and district 5 has 4500 people over the target. Given that these are the districts that experienced growth in the last ten years and may continue to experience growth in the next ten years, the votes of the residents of those districts will be diminished
4. Very important, the Spence map keeps together my community of Germantown.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Venattia Vann". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "V".